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Hongkong, 23rd July, 1889.

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CORDIALS.A. S. WATSON & CO., LTD.,
Hongkong, China, and Manila.

The Hongkong Telegraph

HONGKONG, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1890.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

It is announced that Mr. E. B. Drew will take
up the post of Chief Secretary to the Inspector-
General of Customs at Peking.SIX shopkeepers were fined \$20 each to-day by
Mr. Robinson for having stevedores which were
blamed in their representations. A seventh was
fined \$30.BINKS—I saw a man turn pale and tremble to-
day at the mention of the American navy. Kinks
—Eh! Was he a foreigner?—No; he belongs
to the marines, and he can't swim.AN Emergency meeting of St. John Lodge, No.
618, S.C., will be held in Freemasons' Hall,
Zetland Street, this evening, at 8.30 for 9 o'clock
precisely. Visiting brethren are cordially invited.FOR the defence of Antwerp the Belgian Govern-
ment is about to expend an additional sum of
30,000,000 francs. The best defence of Antwerp
is in the mutual jealousy of the great Powers
of Europe.TO-MORROW morning between 9 and 10.30
o'clock the steam-launch carrying the Bethel
flag will call alongside any vessel hoisting col-
our pennant C, to convey men ashore to 11 a.m.
service at St. Peter's Seamen's Church, returning
about 12.30.SAYS the Sydney Bulletin—Ruskin's latest
idea is that military bands are degraded by
playing at dinners and dances. Ruskin is right.
On the same principle the decorated soldier is
degraded by dropping his sword and taking a
switch to "shoo" dogs away for Sydney drapers.To keep off mosquitoes—Take a small quantity
of a 2 per cent carbolic acid solution and sprinkle
sheets, coverlets, pillows and bolsters on both
sides, the edges of bed curtains and the wall next
the bed. The face and neck may also be slightly
wetted with the solution. Not a single gnaw or
mosquito, it is said, will come near.GOVERNOR Kintore and his Countess attended
the Masonic ball at Broken Hill, and are said to
have struck people as being very indifferent
dancers. In the third figure of the Lancers the
Earl wished to know if the prevailing feature
was "women in the middle." The Countess was
so particularly delicate that it is predicted with
some confidence that the shears will be at work
on all the ladies' dresses before the next Broken
Hill ball.SOME of the exalted church dignitaries of Austria
are in receipt of emoluments which are sur-
prisingly large. The Primate (Hungary, Cardinal
Archbishop of Graz, receives \$30,000 annually,
the Cardinal Archbishop of Olmutz receives
\$40,000, the Cardinal Archbishop of Prague
receives \$50,000 and the Archbishop of Erlau
receives \$60,000 every year. The Cardinal
Archbishop of Vienna is comparatively poor, for
he only receives \$6,000 a year.THE N. C. Daily News hears that a contract,
amounting to nearly Tk. 18,000, has been signed
between the Pootung Dock Company and Messrs.
S. C. Farnham & Co., for the reconstruction of
the collapsed upper Wharf and Bund and the
strengthening of the lower Bund. Part of the
arrangement is that the Dock Co. shall at once
commence another lawsuit to settle the question
of liability, while Messrs. Farnham & Co. will
institute a cross action for damages.SAYS an American writer—"There are in the
East End of London nearly one million people,
10 per cent of whom never know what it is to
have enough to eat or have a regular home to
live in. There are over two hundred thousand
people in families of which the head never earns
more than \$5 a week. When the rent is deducted
from the earnings there is not enough left to buy
any but the most wretched food, such as would
cause indignation if it were offered to convicts
here."THE cricket match between the team selected
to do battle with the Shanghai C. C. and the
"Stay Behinds" was played this afternoon, and
was still in progress when we went to press.
The "Stay Behinds" scored 115 in their first
innings, Capt. Davidson, R.E., (31) and L.
Bauff (24 not out) alone making any show.
The Shanghai team had scored over 130 for two
wickets when our report left, E. J. Coxon and
F. Maitland making a brilliant stand. A full
report will appear in our next issue.A MOST scandalous business is reported in con-
nection with the will of the late Chief Justice
Sinwell, in Melbourne. The story is that law-
makers ought to be law-breakers. Sinwell's
people had the impudence to visit the Master in
quity, and offer to pay duty on an estate of
£14,000. "Oh, come," said the Master, "this is
all humbug, you know. Judge Stowell sold his
Kew Estate for £10,000 in the time of the
land boom." Then it transpired that, to save
duty, Stowell had, two months before his death,
made over £30,000 to a brother Judge and some
others. The Master in Equity, however, made
them pay duty on an estate of £48,000.THE Supreme Court of the United States this
morning defines a gambling contract:—A contract for
the sale of goods to be delivered at a future day is
valid, even though the seller has not the goods,
nor any other means of getting them than to go
into the market and buy them. But such a
contract is only valid where the parties really
intend and agree that the goods are to be de-
livered by the seller, and the price paid by the
buyer. If, under the guise of such a contract,
the real intent is merely to speculate, in the rise
and fall of prices, and the goods are not to be
delivered, but one party is to pay to the other
the difference between the contract price and the
market price of the goods at the date fixed
for executing the contract, then the whole trans-
action constitutes nothing more than a wager,
and is null and void under the statute.THE following are some of the most noted suc-
cides in history:—Cato stabbed himself rather
than live under the despotic reign of Caesar;
Themistocles poisoned himself rather than lead
the Persians against his countrymen; Zeno,
when ninety-eight, hanged himself because he
put his finger out of joint, and Hannibal and
Mithridates poisoned themselves to escape being
taken prisoner. When we search Scripture we
find that Saul, rather than fall into the hands of
the Philistines, commanded his armor-bearer to
hold his sword that he might plunge upon it;
Samson, for the sake of being revenged upon the
Philistines, pulled down the house in which they
were revelling and "died with them," and Judas
Iscaariot, after selling the Savior for thirty pieces
of silver, was overcome by remorse "and went
and hanged himself."FEW ladies who "follow the fashions," or who
count the endorsed and one-fashion periodicals
poured out from the press every month and every
week, have (says a writer in the Standard) any
idea of the extreme simplicity of the patterns of
female attire which were in vogue fifty and even
forty years ago. It is sufficient to say that the
bodice and the skirt of the dress were
generally in one piece; that the gown fastened
by hooks and eyes behind; that the skirts
were never "draped," and that their sole
ornamentation was nothing but flounces. The
only practical way in which a lady could
show that she was in full dress was to show a
bit of dress and to bare her arms. More-
over, bodices were, when made low, universally
cut horizontally instead of on a bias, and the
female novelists of the last generation found
unfailing material of fun in depicting the tor-
ments of growing girls at evening parties in
their endeavors to prevent their low-necked
frocks from slipping off their shoulders. When
a lady went to court she glorified herself with
a train, a tall "panache" of plumes, and as many
diamonds as fortune had favored her with;
otherwise the cut of her gown did not materially
differ from that of the school girl's low-necked
muslin frock.Now that the Governor has come back the
Legislative Council will be getting ready to sit
again, and we suppose the Estimates for 1890 will
have some little attention. We should like some
outspoken official member to just suggest the
abolition of a few highly-paid offices which will
in due course appear therein, unless some very
valid reason to the contrary can be shown. For
instance it is abundantly evident that no Super-
intendent of the Gaol, at a salary of over four thou-
sand dollars a year, is required, since the gen-
erously-salaried officer who at present is supposed
to be performing those duties can find leisure to be
Police Adjutant and Paymaster to the Army Land
department when not on his lengthy journeys to
and from his Peak residence. If one Magistrate
is so superhumanly energetic as to efficiently act
as Coroner, Superintendent of the Fire Brigade,
and Colonial Treasurer, also, his junior colleague
might very reasonably be offered the Gaol
Superintendency at another \$100 a month, for the
sake of having a magistrate where he could
always be found. The Harbour-Master, too,
has apparently managed to get through his work
for a long time without any assistant—wipe the
Assistant Harbour-Master off the Estimates.
And we fail to see the necessity for two Marine
Surveyors. The Assistant Marine Surveyor
is still on his feet, after a year's
unaided labor; give him the substantive ap-
pointment and wipe the Assistant off. Similarly
the abolition of the post of Secretary to the Law
Revision Committee would save another \$1,000
or so a year. It is worth thinking over, hon-
orable and unofficial gentlemen.A CHINAMAN was charged at the Police Court
to-day with larceny. It was heard in camera. The
"China Mail" subscriber has mislaid a lot of
interesting Sunday reading.MISS FORTESCUE, the actress who got £10,000
damages from Lord Cairns for breach of promise,
is reported to have just screwed £1,000 (on
similar grounds) out of Mr. Laurence Henry St.
Paul Moore. It is evident, therefore, that the
breaching of Miss Fortescue's affections, the
trampling on her vir in susceptibility, is a
luxurious pastime that will soon be within the
reach of even the humblest.THE rush of European laborers to Brazil, which
began immediately after the abolition of slavery
by Dom Pedro, is still maintained in such
proportions as to command the serious considera-
tion of statesmen and social economists in the
countries affected. All this state of affairs was,
of course, started by the abolition of slavery, and
has been fostered and stimulated by Government
appropriations "for encouraging immigration,"
amounting this year to some \$5,000,000.At the police court in Ryde, New South Wales,
the other day, one man proceeded against another
for assault. The complainant said that the other
man had knocked him down and sat on him, and
that the assault was quite unprovoked. "Are
you sure you gave no provocation?" asked the
Bench. "Did you call him any names?" To
which the startling reply was, "I called him a
cow—a twopenny halfpenny thing—and a low
swine, which he is." Verdict for defendant in
one act.PROFESSOR JENKS, the new Professor of Law at
Melbourne University, a nice, amiable man, crying
"There's nothing to be done," is giving a lecture,
the other day, on "The Future of Law." Of
course, comments the Sydney Bulletin critic,
it was a denunciation of the infernal
Moloch. JAMES SMITH, in his book, "Melbourne
to Melbourne," writes that a citizen of Italy
can buy the whole Civil Law of his nation for
1s. 3d. Why is it not so with us? Simply
because law exists for the blood-sucking lawyers,
and not for the public. As soon as ever a man
protests against the swindle, he is, of course,
a Communist, Socialist, and Nihilist; never-
theless, the other day, law arises not so much
from the working population as from the
merchant and trader.ONE of Lord Fife's divorce sisters is married to
a London stockbroker, while yet another of the
divorced ladies has returned to the paths of
respectability as the wife of a medical man. The
children of these marriages will, in the usual
course of nature, call Turkey's grand children
their first cousins, and this filtering of "royal
blood" into the middle classes must eventually
knock a hole in the majesty which doth hedge a
king, and so prepare the tradition-haunted minds
of the bourgeoisie for the coming overthrow of
hereditary monarchy. Her Gracious may, how-
ever, upset these calculations by making the
doctor and stockbroker aforesaid into dukes, for
the old lady is a perfect whale in the art of
bolstering up the blessed Throne. Quick think-
ing doesn't run in the Guelph family, but the
fact will slowly dawn upon V. R. that she
should have hitched Louis of Wales to another
serene German with no plain misters hanging
from her neck. Then she may arrange to ennobel Fife's
brother-in-law and shove 'em into the Lianity.
Fancy the prayers of a nation going up for a
stockbroker!

SUPREME COURT.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

(Before Mr. A. G. Wills, Acting Puisne
Judge.)

BRANDT V. GRIMBLE.

The hearing of this case was resumed to-day.
Mr. Webber defended. Defendant was called.
He said—I paid short to Mr. Brandt \$200 as set-off against 500 Banks
and 100 Sugars which he had bought from me,
and which Mr. Gubbay told me would very
likely not be cleared at the end of the month.
He had taken 50 Sugars for the end of August.
Mr. Gubbay came towards the end of the month,
and told me that Brandt wanted me to carry
them over till the end of September. I said I
was very sorry, but I could not. Later on I
saw Brandt, and told him the same. He asked
me not to press him till settlement day, and I
promised not to, but said the shares must be
sold in a day or two. He seemed very dis-
satisfied, saying that Gubbay had promised I
should carry them over. They were not cleared
at the end of the month, and I at once tried to
sell them. I sold them on the 4th at 25¢, with
25 of my own. I might have been able to sell
them on settlement day, or got an offer, but
I did not try. I tried the next day. I charged
7 per cent on the value—\$14,000.By Mr. Brandt—You told me that Mr. Gubbay
had promised I should carry them over, but I
said I had been sick for nearly a fortnight, and
had not seen him, so I could not have authorised
him. You seemed dissatisfied. I did not under-
stand you to say that I might sell the shares or
do what I liked with them, and charge you
with the difference on settlement day. I thought
you might perhaps take them up. There may
have been a sale at 25¢ the day before I sold; a man might have been
lucky enough to get a sale but, it would not
make a market rate. I kept the \$3000 back
because Gubbay told me you would probably not
take up the Banks and Sugars, and I calculated
that that would come to about \$1,300. I don't
remember saying that the shares were bound
to go down, and that I should sell soon. My
own impression was that they would go up. I
did not tell you I had sold 250 Sugars. I never
had so many. I may have said that the Bank
forced me to sell; in a certain way I was com-
pelled, because I had not sufficient margin. The
Bank did not come and say "sell these shares,"
but they put pressure on me. I might have sold
in any case.Mr. Webber, in concluding the defendant's
case, said that the balance reduced to whether
or not the defendant had a right to hold over
the shares for the benefit of the plaintiff, and
whether the sum of \$394 was properly deducted from the plaintiff's shares, through
Toeg and Gubbay, who afterwards gave defendant
to understand that they would not be taken up,
and asked him on plaintiff's behalf to carry them
on to the end of September. But, as Mr. Grimble
had stated in evidence, when he heard this, after
being about a fortnight through illness, he
consequently took the responsibility. He afterwards
did consent to hold them until settlement day, and
sold them as soon after that as he could. As they
were not disposed of on the 31st August the
plaintiff could not ask that that day's rate should
be taken as fixing the difference; it was not as
though he had said in the first instance "Realise
them, and charge me the difference." They
were sold on the 4th September, and that day's
quotations were what must be gone by. Mr.
Brandt had done exactly the same thing with
Mr. Mooney, and charged him the difference
between 25¢ and 26¢.Mr. Brandt, in his own behalf, pointed out that
Mr. Toeg, the defendant's own broker, had
admitted that he (plaintiff) told Grimble to
realise and charge the difference when he refused
to carry the shares over to next month. There
was no mention of carrying them over for a few
days, and nothing to shew in support of theassertion. He (plaintiff) had some shares thrown
on his hands by defaulters, and he easily sold
them at 26¢ on settlement-day. Settlement-day
was the recognised day for such sales, and he
expected those 50 Sugars to be realised then.
The case of Mr. Mooney, which had been
referred to, was quite different. There was a
formal agreement to carry the shares over a few
days, and about the 31st Mooney gave out that
he was going into bankruptcy, so of course he
sold them. Mr. Danby, defendant's own witness,
had admitted that the shares were selling at 26¢
and 26¢ on settlement-day, so that defendant could
not assert that there was no market if he had
tried to sell. With regard to the \$394, he paid
that to Toeg and Gubbay on Grimble's account,
and if they diverted it to their own account he
would not be responsible for that.His lordship, in giving judgment, dealt with
the amount in dispute as \$1,994, of which all but
\$1,027 was admitted. There was evidence before
him that about the 27th August plaintiff distinctly
gave the defendant notice that he did not intend
to take up the shares. On the other hand the
defendant said there was a practical agreement
between him and the plaintiff that he should hold
over the shares for a day or two and then sell them.
There were only the two statements, and in-
setting up an agreement which was to do away
with the usual custom the onus probandi lay
with the defendant. There was no proof of the
agreement. He therefore took the rate of the
31st August, and fixed it at 25¢, and the balance
difference at 26¢. With regard to the \$394
charged by the defendant as having been paid
on plaintiff's account to Toeg and Gubbay,
which the plaintiff denied having sanctioned, he
must have had notice of it, and yet took no
action in the matter. He must therefore be held
to have agreed to the payment, and that amount
would be set off. Judgment for \$392.65 and
costs.

NOTES FROM CHINESE PAPERS.

Eleven criminals, all robbers, were beheaded
at Soochow on the 13th September, and five
more on the 16th.A large number of disbanded Hunan "braves"
have been sent to the Yau savages and fortified
themselves in the mountains of Kuangtung near
the Hunan frontier in Lien Chien, some 70
miles north of Canton. It is expected that military
expedition will be necessary to turn them out of
that.The Southern History (a History from 420 to
589 A.D.) contains a record of an individual who
bought his coffin when 30 years old, and did not
have to use it until he had passed the age of 90.
—an ancient in the custom in China of keeping
coffins in the house ready for use. The Yih
Wen Luh recently contained an account of a
tragic accident occasioned by this old custom.The Viceroy Chang Chih-tung, says the
Hu Pao, has deferred to the wishes of the Junk-
men and others and closed the newly opened
Lukin Office at Shih-men, Kuangtung. On 14th
September, Sun, Prefect of Kuangchow Fu,
issued a four-character metrical proclamation,
briefly announcing that it has been closed and
calling on the people to go about their business
as before.We heard yesterday from our correspondent at
Tungchow, says the Shen Pao of Sept. 22nd,
that the railway from Lu-kow K'iao to Hankow
will be commenced at once, and that it is likely
that the iron necessary will be procured from
Hwoh-luh Hien in Shanai. (Hwoh-luh is in
Cheng-tung, in Chihli, so this is a mistake).
It is said a Memorial is in contemplation recom-
mending the raising of funds by the sale of
official rank.The Presidents and Vice-Presidents of the
Board of Revenue are said to be still in consulta-
tion as to ways and means for the building of
Kiao Chang Chih-tung's railway from Lu-kow
K'iao, Peking, to Hankow. They are opposed to
a loan, especially a foreign loan, and intend
if possible to build the line with Government
funds received from the various Provinces. They
hope to complete the line in eight years at a cost
of 35,000,000 taels, spending something over
Tls. 4,000,000 each year.The Shen Pao gives an edict on the subject
of the fire at the Temple of Heaven, which
originated, it says, at the building called the
Hall of Prayers for the Year, during a violent
thunderstorm. The officers on watch are to be
punished for their carelessness. The Emperor
accepts the fire as an admonition from Heaven
and in his servants will draw the same
moral lesson from it. It is satisfactory to find
that as yet no lesson against railways has been
deduced from the accident.A Russian traveller has obtained through the
Russian Consul a passport from the Tsaitai at
Tientsin, under which he proposes to proceed to
Kwei-kwa Ch'eng, Shanai, then to K'ow'over the
railway to Kia-yü Kwan in Kansu (about Long-
97 E.) and thence still further West to Tli (or
Kuldja, about Long 82 E.) He carries a rump,
in which he will enter any corrections that he
observes on his journey. The reason of his
desiring to obtain such a passport is obvious.
A Japanese in Chinese dress had been seen at
Tientsin in a cart with two mules bent on the explosion
of the N.E. Provinces from the Amur to Shanai.Outside the South Gate of the city of Wu-shih
in the province of Kiangsu, beside a temple of
Kwan-yin, is a boy's school. The schoolmaster
being called away one day, his little pupils
strayed into the temple, and saw there two large
coffins. There were five or six boys, and one
of them proposed that the rest should play a
trick on the pedagogue by hiding in the coffins,
of which this boy would fasten down the lids
after they had got in. No sooner said than
done, and the last child was hidden from view
when the master returned. He was looking
everywhere for the boys in great perplexity
when some one said "Your boys are in the
coffins." Now yuh kwan, the phrase employed,
has two meanings "become mandarin," or
"gone into coffins," although in writing, of
course, the second character of each group is
different. "Hardly that so soon," said the good
old man, "I hope they will eventually attain
to it but at present they have only begun the
Odes and the Book of History." You are
mistaking me," said the man, "I mean they are
in the coffins." "Don't talk like that," said the
schoolmaster with a snarl, "I saw them alive
and well half an hour ago." The man, now
thinking the hoax had lasted long enough, helped
the schoolmaster to pull open the big coffins in
the temple; but it was too late, for there lay
the six little boys all dead of suffocation. The
master at once fled from the district; and the
parents of the victims, in their fury, went in
pursuit of the other boy, who had caused the
tragedy, and put him to death.

CHINESE CHARACTERISTICS.

THE ABSENCE OF ALTRUISM.

Principles similar to these are put in practice
toward any natives of other regions, who trade
in districts where they have no influential con-nections. The petty pillagers of any region are
thoroughly organised, like the members of any
other profession, and are under the control of
the "chief-catcher" department of the district
magistrate's yamen. There is thus in China a
peculiar perniciety in the saying "set a thief to
catch a thief," for there is literally no other thief-
catching machinery. An acquaintance of the
writer who was a native of a district in the east
of a province, was driven by famine and
at length succeeded in getting into a small
profitable business. One day, at a
fair, he entered a cash-shop, where he inadver-
tently laid down a string of cash, which at once
disappeared as if it had evaporated. As the
amount was to him a large one (about half a
dollar) he was much distressed, and came to the
writer to ask if something could not be done to
recover his money. Now it is a dictum of the
law, as we have already mentioned, that in the
good days of Yao and Shun whatever was
lost was at once restored to its owner. But in
present times are quite otherwise. Nothing is
more difficult than to get back lost articles,
although the owner and the individual
who has found them are perfectly well-
known. "A monkey's hand drops no
dates," and "meat-balls thrown to a dog never
return." Nothing will avail but personal influence,
and a great deal of complimentary language, in
which the observation that "within the four seas
all men are brothers" will probably be judiciously
intermingled with a certain amount of brass cash
by way of testifying to the "harmony" existing
between the owner and the finder. On the
occasion a school-teacher, whose home was in
the village where the fair was held, was commis-
sioned to adjust the matter. This he did by
seeking out the head petty-thief (one of his
own cousins) and mentioning to him that the
man who had been robbed was not so suitable
a victim as had been supposed, as he was a
friend of the foreigner, who was not to be trifled
with. The head petty-thief assured his cousin
that the affair was a mistake; the "thief-guild"
did not know that the man was so respectably
connected, for had they known it, he would not
have been disturbed. The next day the money
was returned, with the exception of a small sum
for incidental expenses, and orders were issued
to the thief-guild to let this man alone in future.
Other similar instances have occurred in our
experience, and in each case with the same
result. It is invariably a "mistake"; it was not
discovered that the person was one of our
friends; it shall not happen again; and the
property is always restored, less the small
amount for compensation.The instinctive dislike of the Chinese toward
strangers is exhibited in their behaviour to
natives of other provinces who settle in large
numbers in great commercial centres. In this
case it is not poverty which makes the immigrant
objectionable, for the traders from distant
provinces are frequently men of great wealth,
and they always establish powerful guilds of their
own. Neither is rivalry the source of the dislike,
for the interchange of products which is thus
carried on is well recognised as a great benefit
to both parties. The root of the matter is that
the stranger is a stranger. They are not like "us,"
and therefore, with an impartiality worthy of an
ancient Greek, each party calls the other "bar-
barian." The people of Canton are recognised
by those of the northern provinces to be distinctly
superior to themselves in many particulars, such
as mechanical skill and trading capacity. Yet
natives of these provinces always call the
Cantonese "southern barbarians." The men of
the north who go to the south are in like manner
stigmatised as "northern Tartars," which means
barbarians. The Shanai men are the Jews of China,
and the most capable bankers in the empire, being
irresponsible, but they are everywhere
ridiculed, and are designated by many oppro-
brious names. In several of the worst of these
names, a foreigner dressed in Chinese costume
and travelling with the writer was repeatedly
taken for a "Cantonese." A friend of the writer
whose home was in Canton took her servants to
Swatow on a visit. A servant belonging to the
latter port came to his mistress, remarking that
there was a man outside who looked something
like a Chinese, and who wore Chinese dress, even
to the queue, but he "could not talk a word of
Chinese." Yet Swatow and Canton are situated
in the same province. The dislike and con-
tempt felt by the Chinese for outsiders of their
own race is conspicuously manifested in the
southern provinces in the treatment of the Hak-
kas—whose very name indicates that they are
"stranger-families." The mutual animosities of
these immigrants and of the natives of the south
played an important part in the history of the
great T'ai-ping rebellion, the leader of which was
considered to be a Hakka. The Hakkas seem
to have come from the north at a remote time,
and all certain trace of their origin is lost.
These fellows," say the Cantonese, "do not
know who their own ancestors were!"
An incidental but striking confirmation of the
reality of the Chinese prejudice against those
of their own race who happen to have been born
elsewhere, is found in the fact often observed,
that a man who visits another part of China for
the first time is almost sure to be impressed with
the evil qualities of the people. One of the most
recent examples of this which we have met, was
a fortune-teller, who had wandered widely
and whose craft had not brought him
into contact with the best classes anywhere.
Being sent on an errand to one of the central
provinces, this man came back with such an ac-
count of the depravity of the people (although
he was not himself in any way a sufferer
thereby) as might have suggested the tales of an
Australian as to the condition of society in the
palm days of Botany Bay. Even their language
of reviling was, he said, of a startlingly depraved
description. Something analogous to criticisms
of this sort may be occasionally seen in the
translations of the Peking Gazette. Governors
and other high officers constantly memorialise
the throne, to the effect that the people in the
particular province governed by these officers
are of a peculiarly intractable disposition, con-
stantly liable to violent outbreaks; it will there-
fore be necessary to allow the provincial officials
large liberty of inflicting the death penalty in
reference to Peking. A few years since, the
governors and governors-general of several
different provinces made precisely the same
representation on this subject, each claiming that
his province should be an exception to the
general rule.Of the characteristic absence of public spirit
in China we have already spoken at length. It
is manifested in more ways than one can
enumerate. The "public" is to a Chinese a
mere "legal fiction," while he and his interests
are the only real facts. The man who having
well arranged the sweep so that it will
cross a highway and make it impossible for
carts to pass, while water is drawn, is an
opponent of the empire. So is the man who
throws a handful of dirty water on the dusty
road, or shovels half-full of earth on the muddy
one, holding out his palm in each case to the
next traveller as though benefactors to their
species such as himself ought to be rewarded at
sight. An inn-keeper will not even fill up a
deep hole at the entrance to his hostelry, though
he has visible evidence that other inns, that are
unprovided with mud-holes, will draw away his
custom. Long lines of carts leave Chinese inns
at a very early hour, travelling together for
protection. But if a party of bandits is
discovered enough to attack the last cart, and let
the others escape, it is the testimony of thosewho ought to know the facts, that the plundering
will go on unhindered, unless the unlucky carrier
happens to have some special connection with
the others.It is a proverb current in Western lands, that
there is honour even among thieves. A similar
code may prevail in China, for aught that we
know, but it is subject to some peculiar varia-
tions, owing to the exigencies of Chinese judicial
proceedings. Accounts published in the native
papers, and as in a recent instance, in the Peking
Gazette, show that it is a common proceeding
on the part of the Chinese robbers, when one of
their number has been wounded or is otherwise
incapacitated from effective fight, to kill him, as
the only way to make sure that he will not
testify against the rest. In Western lands, it
is thought to be an argument for favouring a
scheme that it is evidently for the general good.
Individuals are occasionally found who are in-
accessible to appeals based upon this claim, but
it must be a peculiar community in which the
general level of public sentiment would allow to
be thwarted a plan which could do no harm to
public welfare, and which is a large part in China,
where the attempt to purchase ground for a
native dispensary and hospital, to be under the
control of the Chinese themselves, was entirely
blocked by the *literati* of the place, apparently
for no other reason than that the enterprise was
promoted as well as suggested by foreigners.
The same exemplification of the policy known
to history as that of the "dog-in-the-manger" was
recently met with in the famine relief.
On three several occasions the writer was
waited upon by a deputation of headmen
from various villages, setting forth the perishing
condition of their

